

Esoteric Development.

by correspondence conducted by
Charles H. Mackay

The higher must elevate, harmonize, and develop the lower

A few thoughts upon Practical Methods, and Subjects which may serve to bring man from a state of animalism to the state Celestial; where he shall realize harmony with his every function, and with God, and shall have come into his Rightful Inheritance.

Those who have entered the Path will find more aid within these pages than can be perceived at first reading.

Study every thought, and apply to your daily lives, if you would advance.

Go into your "Sanctum Sanctorum" and in some remote, dark niche, you may be fortunate enough to get a brief interview with that nearest of kin, yet most estranged of forgotten ancestry, your soul.

If you succeed in claiming its recognition, or rather if your self-sufficient Ego will deign to listen a moment, ask your soul these queries:

- 1 Have I had enough of so-called sensational experience?
 - 2 Do I truly desire to raise my life into the Divine Relationship?
 - 3 Can I, one by one, expunge every useless habit & attribute?
 - 4 Can I ceaselessly aim to overcome the evils of wrong speaking?
 - 5 Do I think it wrong to destroy sentient life?
 - 6 Do I believe it is useless to seek phenomena, or spiritual manifestations, so-called?
 - 7 Will you, my soul, teach me how to wait?
- If an affirmative is received to but one of these questions, then you are ready for the suggestions which you will receive as you need them. Then enter into an eternal covenant with your Inner self and with God, to the effect that you will conquer every "evil" as outlined above; that you will

live according to the promptings of your awakening soul powers; that during your unfoldment you will impart, as you are able, to whomsoever needs and can receive; that you will teach as you are herein taught, namely that the greatest truths of the universe, as connected with human life, are easily understood if presented aright, & that whosoever would throw upon them the clouds of mystery, is a co-worker with those who dwell in darkness, with the animal senses.

It is not only the ability to live the perfect life that may place you upon the land of the "chosen," but it depends as truly, upon the constant desire to attain to the perfect point. If your purpose is a sincere one it will be accompanied with action, and the two united cannot fail.

There are at least three distinct general types or classes of the human species, namely: the animal-man, the moral man & the man-celestial. The first constitutes the rank & file of the race, as to-day existent; the second bears about the same relation to the first as the uniformed officers of an army bear to the common soldiers, speaking in a numerical sense; the last is so rare that

we may use the synonym Commander-in-Chief, to convey our meaning, for among the people of a nation, we may find but one or two of the "elect."

Now the Animal lives & acts through the operation of Nature's general laws; as the earth moves through space; as the tree grows. Consciously meeting no resistance the animal realizes no development. He is upon, or below the lowest plane of intellectuality until he becomes possessed with reason, (more or less fully developed) when he gathers to himself those attributes of the human race which characterize him as an individual, and classes him with the majority, above mentioned.

The Moral-man has attained semi-soul consciousness, and is at variance with his existing conditions. He lays hold of his environment and struggles to be free. Hereditary influences, associates and conditions in general all unite to force him to abandon his resolve to depart from their way. If these forces succeed then he finishes his days "naturally" wasting his life as nature and custom suggests & finally laying off the earth garments and returning to a body of flesh for another trial. Thus the round will continue until the will has met the adversaries and overcome, or the soul shall have lost its right

to further recognition. If, however, the Moral-man asserts his divine independence his feet rapidly press forward towards the Culmination of the earthly mission.

The Man-Celestial is the consummation of all that has been; embraces all; governs all and is no longer subject to the limitations of earth environment, but is a direct co-worker with God. He is the Ultimate, the Finale of earthly beings. He may lay down his "life" and take it up again. He may have dominion over the birds of the air, beasts of the fields, inhabitants of the deep, as well as the elements. He has attained true Adeptship and among the least of his powers is the ability to perform "miracles," create wealth, & secure prosperity to himself & associates; ever recognizing that the greatest of all achievements is the ability to correctly and uprightly walk with his own soul, and with men.

Herein we may hold a light for the illumination of a path which you may follow with safety, for many have been the way before you. The Man-Celestial awaits the traveller when at last he shall have emerged from the tortuous byways of the degenerate & beholds the end bathed in brightness; never again to be veiled in night. If you are able to even dimly perceive this guiding

light, follow it, however faint it may seem, for it will increase according to your faith.

Development comes through "adversity" & those countless opportunities which may be found in every man's environment. Consider them correctly & you build the structure Eternal.

Conquer the physical while it is at its best. If you wait until nature fights and wins (?) the battle for you, it will bring you only rest, without satisfaction; and you must commence again at the foot of the ladder of experience and try once more to solve the Mystery of life.

We cannot fly to heaven until we have learned to walk the earth. Reincarnation's Law must be fulfilled.

It is only necessary for you to begin to live counter to the accepted methods, when you will not lack for every form of opposing forces. Therefore complain not for dearth of opportunity and experience; you will quickly meet such subtle enemies as will fully test your right to the Path.

The physical is the vineyard. Feed it; water it; study it; bring it to its highest state of perfection, with every function and attribute capable of most sublime use; then you will

have learned to govern.

The Divine Germ of Man-Celestial lies cold & almost lifeless within the breast of every human being. At the first self-denial this germ shows signs of life. Continued and faithful exhibitions of will, finally brings this divine spark to that state where it commences a purifying process & stops not until all dross has passed away in the resistless consuming fire.

I have brought myself by long meditation to the conviction that a human being with a settled purpose, must accomplish it, and that nothing can resist a will which will stake even existence upon its fulfillment. Disraeli.

If a man has fully determined upon a certain ultimate he will attain it. A well balanced mind holding unwaveringly to the accomplishment of a noble purpose, cannot fail, for it has become a Divine Agent, a co-worker with God. Man's greatest possible achievement is to get an understanding of the mysteries of his own being. To do this he must enter upon the way with the firm resolve of going straight to victory. While he will be tried along the path "as by fire" until the soul turns sick, & disheartening experiences of divers kinds come to him, yet he will never be given more than he can bear, & if he has truly determined to conquer he will soon learn that each struggle

lifts him nearer the light. Divinity protects those who are thus facing upward, & only a voluntary relaxation of the individual will, can serve to hinder the progress.

Misfortune, ordinarily termed, cannot retard; worldly cares (?) will not encompass, and at last every phase and incident of the environment, will unite to urge forward the development of him, who will not recognize nor obey that, which would have destroyed but for his strength of purpose. He will have obeyed the law & is entitled to the benefit of everything as stated in the Promise. Is. XXXIII, 14-16:

Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, & speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, & shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high; his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks; bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

Develop the esoteric nature of man, & all questions of Social or National moment, will be fully and satisfactorily answered.

Believing this we should seek first the solution of those mysteries of life, which will harmonize the conflicting forces of the Microcosm. When we shall

have gained the wisdom then shall the secret of this earth existence be ours, and the "Ways of Providence" no longer be "Past finding out." The man who has "conquered," "overcome," and "developed" his "evils," cannot commit an act of injustice, & needs no civil law to keep him in harmony with his country's principles. His example fully answers the problem of the Socialist, the Nationalist, the Temperance Reformer, everything in fact, concerning the discontent & unrest of the masses. In fine the esoterically developed nation would govern itself with the exactness & lack of inharmony so beautifully illustrated in all nature's laws.

To conquer, overcome, etc., is not to kill out nor in any way destroy. By these terms we mean that every so called evil may be studied, mastered & developed, into its sphere of highest use. The passion & intense hate which takes possession of the murderer or libertine would if controlled aright make leaders among men. Therefore do not desire that these lower attributes be annihilated; rather pray that you be given strength of will to master and guide them.

Argument is man's weakest weapon. Agree with thine adversary quickly. Allow your brother to hold

his own opinion, & use no argument nor criticism, except through your life, & with silence. Herein you will find a truth which requires the deepest meditation to comprehend.

Remember that your brother speaks truth from his standpoint.

Steps Toward the Kingdom.

1. Agree with thine adversary quickly.
2. Avoid useless talking.
3. Be faithful in the marital relation.
4. Resist not evil, (i.e. do not seek its enmity.)
5. Conquer lust.
6. Give generously; (secretly; humbly.)
7. Do (secret) good to enemies.
8. Do not accept temporal power, at the expense of your soul growth. Resist the tempter & angels will come.
9. Pray secretly; briefly; in thankfulness.
10. Forbear - Forgive - Forget.
11. Do penance in humility and secrecy.
12. Collect the Substance; not shadow.
13. Be faithful to the Present. Live not in To-morrow.
14. Judge no Man.
15. Clear your vision before seeking to guide another.
16. Teach those alone who can Receive.
17. Drive out error, & Truth & Righteousness will seek entrance before you ask.

- 18 Repose Faith in the Father.
- 19 Keep in the Strait Way. Few there be that find it.
- 20 Beware of false prophets. Behold their Fruits.
- 21 Be ye Perfect. — The Teacher on the Mount.

Conquer — Evils to which the tongue & voice are prone: Anger — Profanity — Argument — Undue haste in speaking — Criticism of the acts of others — Sarcasm (tones which imply the same) — Useless talking in general, except where "etiquette" or the customary rules of politeness demands. In such cases never descend however to "gossip" or criticism of persons.

Expunge — Evils relating more or less directly to the sensations and appetites of the stomach, mouth, throat, etc. Tobacco, Tea, Coffee, Intoxicants and everything (as the awakening soul suggests) liquid or solid, partaking of stimulating qualities and which do not contain healthful constituents for the nourishment of the body. — All kinds of food which necessitates the taking of sentient life.

Educate — The Eyes, Ears, Hands, Feet, & other physical organs and functions.

See that these are kept in paths of use and that they do not rule of themselves but are governed.

Develop — The muscles of the Arms, Legs, Feet, Waist, Shoulders, Neck, etc., etc.

Overcome — Everything pertaining to the sensual, or sensational, which tends to take from the life. Refuse to take part in the beginnings of temptations, if you would be Master.

Practical Methods & Drills for Development.

The Mental : [a] Read no light, trashy literature. Read nothing that beclouds. If you find that a particular book gets the mind into a haze, then drop it at once. When you are reading & find that you cannot recall that which you have just gone over, then re-read it until you compel the mind to take cognizance of the subject, or give it up for the time being, & allow the mind to rest. This is very important.

(b) Whatever your business or occupation give it your close attention during the hours engaged. Commit to memory everything possible which bears upon your duties; you will thus lessen your work & at the same time greatly add to your mental strength.

(c) There is nothing of more use in strengthening the mind & expanding the soul powers than a study of the heavens. It would be well for you to learn the names of the principle constellations, the names of the planets, positions, distances, size, etc., etc. This study systematizes the mind as nothing else can. It is to be hoped that there may be many whose inclinations may lead in this direction.

(d) At night before "going to sleep" invariably concentrate the mind upon the subject of continued consciousness. Keep the thought prominent that you will awaken at once if evil threatens you in sleep. If you dream, have a little memorandum book ready at your bedside so that when you awake you may record the principle points of your dreaming. Do not however make it your habit to repeat all your dreams.

Concentration. — Drill (d) provides all needed concentration for the present. Upon first awakening hold the mind firmly upon every detail of your "dreams" & get all particulars clearly & orderly before you, then, upon arising, record the main points & dismiss the entire subject at will. I repeat, do not concentrate except as suggested, namely just before retiring & immediately upon awakening, & only upon the subject of continued consciousness.

I have sought herein to display the material necessary for the structure Eternal. It now remains for you to lay hold of the rough blocks, square them, polish them, raise them to their proper positions, & as the building goes on, see to it that all the walls are plumb & that the pillars are selected & placed, not so much with an idea of conformity to the custom of the spiritual architecture of this age, but rather have in view strength and symmetry. Build independently. Do not imitate your brother's style, for he builds to his own peculiar needs and knows not your requirements.

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